

GREEKS HOLD 2 ARABS IN EXPLOSIVES CASE

Special to The New York Times

ATHENS, Sept. 8—Security guards at facilities of El Al, the Israeli airline, were reinforced today as Greek security men questioned two Lebanese men charged with illegal possession of explosives.

The two men, arrested in central Athens late last night, were identified as Ibrahim Hotait, 26 years old, and Morfet Shebo, 22, who arrived in Athens Sunday.

Police sources said the men were charged with illegal possession of explosives after a search of their room in a downtown Athens hotel, Acadimos. The source refused to specify the kind of explosives found or elaborate on the progress of the inquiry.

Police sources suggested the two Arabs might have been planning an attack on an Israeli target in Athens or a plane hijacking.

BEIRUT, Lebanon, Sept. 8, (Reuters) — A spokesman for the Eritrean Liberation Front said tonight that the two Arabs detained in Athens were members of the front on a hijacking and sabotage mission in Europe against Ethiopian Airlines. The mission was part of the Eritrean struggle for independence from Ethiopia.
